

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

- (iii) Final approval for diversion of 15.49 ha. forest land for laying pipeline in favour of M/s Essar Oil Ltd. on 8.12.1999.

II. Under CRZ Notification:

- (i) M/s Reliance Petroleum Ltd. was granted environment clearance to the refinery project including jetty and associated marine facilities on 25.9.1995. As such no separate CRZ clearance has been issued.
- (ii) M/s Essar Oil Ltd. was granted CRZ clearance for construction of jetty and associated marine facilities on 3.11.2000.

III. Under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:

The statutory authority to exercise powers under sections-29 and 33 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 vests with the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State and not the Central Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Effect of tax free imports on Indian Farmers

*3789. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food items being brought into the country by multinational companies after implementation by Government of a import duty free system, are affecting the Indian farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of food items which come under the purview of the said system; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the system for a solution of this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Presently, the import of only a few food items *i.e.* onions, cashew nuts in shell, meslin, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, canary seed and other cereals (except wheat, rice and maize) is duty-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

free. However, no adverse impact of the duty-free imports of these items on Indian farmers has come to notice. With a view to safeguarding the interest of domestic farmers, Government is closely monitoring the imports of agricultural commodities and whenever a surge in the import of any commodity is noticed, immediate steps can be taken to raise the import tariff thereon within the bound rates. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture further provides for taking other measures such as anti-dumping action, safeguard actions and imposition of countervailing duties in order to provide protection to the domestic farmers under certain specified circumstances.

Sale of adulterated vegetables

†3790. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's reaction on the news-item published on 26th August, 2000 in the "Navbharat Times" under the caption, "Sabziyon ko kritrim rang lagakar khule-aam becha ja raha hai";

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard and whether any action has been taken against any seller on the basis of the outcome of the said inquiry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955 no synthetic food colours, including even those permitted for use in food are allowed to be used in fresh fruits, vegetables, pulses, saunf and spices. Violation of the provisions of PFA Rules, 1955 are punishable. The Directorate General of Health Services in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been advising the State/Union Territory Government to be vigilant and take necessary action against those involved in adulteration

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